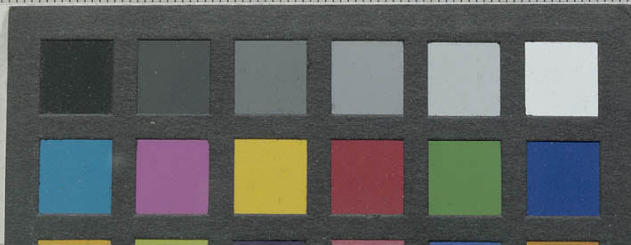
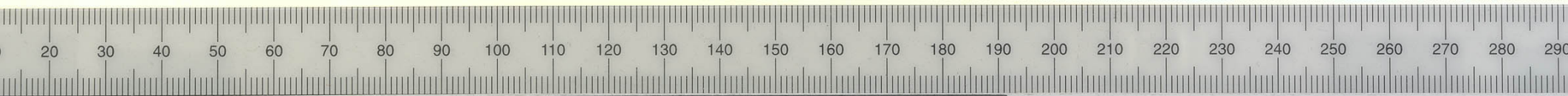


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Lydia Heaton
Dec^r 29 1790



JUVENILE SPORTS
Lydia AND *Aceton*
PASTIMES.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,
MEMOIRS of the AUTHOR:
INCLUDING A NEW MODE OF
INFANT EDUCATION.

By MASTER MICHEL ANGELO,
AUTHOR OF
The DRAWING-SCHOOL for LITTLE
MASTERS and MISSES.

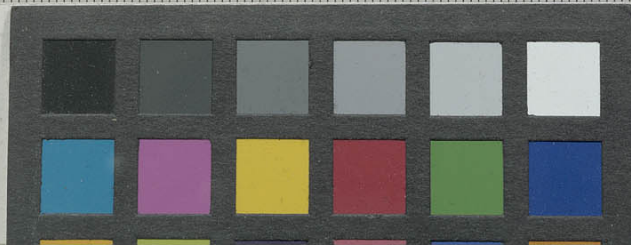
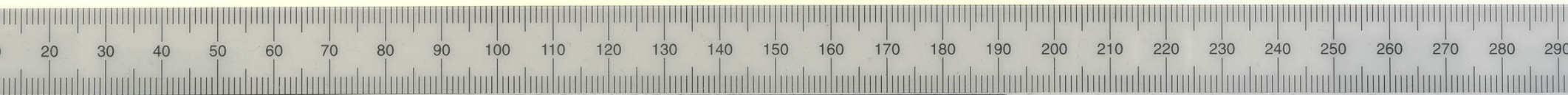
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JUVENILE SPORTS

AND

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CHARLES V. LINDSEY, Esq.

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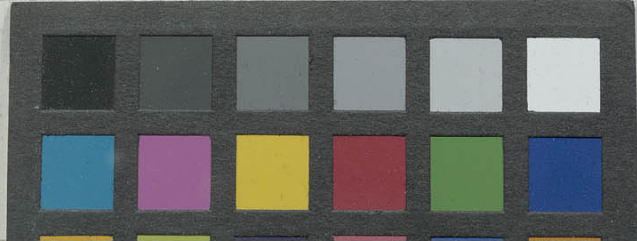
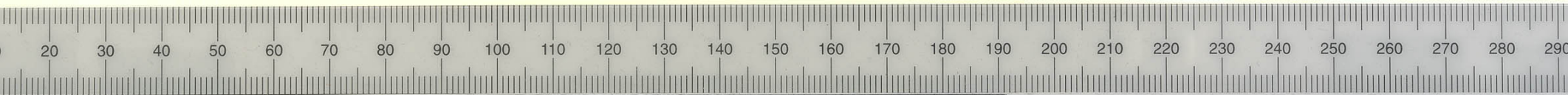
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JUVENILE SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

CHAP. I.

*In which the author gives some account of
himself.*

I Am sensible it will be thought some-
thing new for an author to write me-
moirs of himself: those who write the
lives of others often write nothing at all,
and I can at least say as much of myself.

I begin my history with — I was born.
Now can any historical fact be founded
upon surer grounds than this, and is it not,
at the same time, destitute of the least spark
of flattery or vanity?

To proceed: I cannot recollect much of
what passed from the day of my birth till I

B

was

2 JUVENILE SPORTS

was turned of five years of age. I must therefore relate the particulars of that interval from the relation of others, who say, that my first year was wholly divided between eating pap, crying, and sleeping. In the second year I began to shew some marks of gravity, as I could not be made to meddle with my coral before the bells were taken off; but by what sign or token they discovered my displeasure at the bells, I have never yet been able to find out.— My third year was remarkable for performing many mischievous actions; as not a china cup or a saucer could come within my reach, but was sure to meet its fate on the floor: many a good silk gown did I that year spoil, by pulling glasses of red wine from the lips of ladies who held me in their laps; and I am said to have shewn the highest satisfaction on one day taking up the ladle, and dashing it against a most beautifully-enamelled large bowl, full of punch, and thereby dashing it to pieces, and spilling all the liquor among the company.

Tho' the beginning of my fourth year was a very troublesome period to the cats
and

AND PASTIMES. 3

and dogs in our family, whom I unmercifully pursued with a whip from one part of the house to another, yet the close of it made considerable alterations in me: my father made me sensible, that it was no agreeable thing to be beat and drove about the house in that manner; and, in order to give me the most convincing proofs of it, whenever he caught me at this kind of sport, he would take the whip from me and lay it about my back, till I acknowledged my fault, and promised never to do so any more.

I have often heard my father repeat, as one of his excellent maxims, "Idleness is the root of all evil: boys would not in general be so mischievous as they are, were parents to be more diligent in finding them employment." My father took a very pleasing method with me to employ my time. He one evening brought home with him a set of square cards, which he bought at my bookfeller's, for a shilling only, though in fact worth their weight in gold; nor will any one think I value them at too high a rate, if they consider them as attentively as I have.

B 2

Ccr-

4 JUVENILE SPORTS

Certain however I am, that no parent, who has children, and wishes them well, ought to be without these invaluable squares.

"Now, Mike (said my father to me) let you and I play at a new game" He then took four and twenty of these square cards; on the first of which were a great *A* and a little *a*, on the second a great *B* and a little *b*; and thus, on the whole, was the complete alphabet of large and small letters. Besides which, there was a pretty picture on each square: and it was from hence, even in my infant years, that I imbibed the strong desire of becoming an artist in drawing.

After my father had permitted me to look them over, which I did with the utmost eagerness, he took them from me, and was for putting them by till another opportunity; but, with tears in my eyes, I begged he would shew me how to play with them. This was what I afterwards found he wanted, though he did not wish I should think so. He then picked out the cards which contained the vowels.

"Now, Mike (said my father) you know
"that

AND PASTIMES. 5

"that no game is to be learned without some trouble; so that, before you can play properly, you must be at the pains of first learning the essential points of it." He then shewed me the vowels, told me their names several times over, and promised me some plumbs if I called them properly by their names after dinner the next day. He likewise desired me to remember, that no word in the English language could be formed without one of the letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, or *y*, which are called vowels.

I was now involved in a multiplicity of business, sometimes forgetting a letter, then running to one of the servants to tell it me, and at other times repeating them all to my mama. The next day came, and at dinner-time I went to my father, and demanded my plumbs. "Stay, my boy (said my father) let me first see whether you have earned them." He then ordered me to lay the six cards on the table, from whence I was bid to bring them one by one, according to the letter he called for. I took some time about it, as I was very fearful of losing the plumbs, which had

B 3

like

6 JUVENILE SPORTS

like to have been the case with the third card. I had brought the two first to my father very properly, and was travelling towards him with the third, when I observed my mother did not smile at me as before. I concluded I was wrong; I therefore returned back again, and upon second consideration hit on the right.

After I had learned the vowels, I was in like manner played into a perfect knowledge of all the consonants, and then was directed to fetch whole words, such as *and*, *but*, *when*, and others of the like sort. I always gave much satisfaction, and was sure at the completion of any thing great to receive an adequate reward. I was the more eager in the pursuit of this infant knowledge, as I was made to believe it was rather an indulgence than a compulsion.

From the knowledge of these twenty-four cards, I proceeded to enquire into the contents of twenty-six more; (for in this pack are no less than fifty-six cards) on which were printed the Italic alphabet, besides a great number of moral sentiments. These I soon made myself master

AND PASTIMES. 7

master of, as well as of the figures and numerals.

My father, now seeing I had made a rapid progress in the science of my new pastime, told me, that I was perfectly qualified to play at the game of squares properly. Accordingly, for some nights following, he permitted me to invite some of my little neighbours to drink tea with me, when he taught us this game in its utmost extent; which afforded us so much delight, that we never knew when to give over, and we always heard the clock strike eight with regret.

For brevity sake, I shall here omit my father's directions for playing at this game, since it would be useless to those who are not possessed of the squares; and to those who have bought them, it would be needless, as a little book is folded up with them, containing a very particular description of their use.

After following this method for several nights, I found none of my little companions able to cope with me, so that I presently grew tired of my pasteboard squares; but one day, observing a little book lying

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on the table (*the Royal Primer*, placed there on purpose) I took it up, opened it, and began to read in it as well as I was able. My father, seeing I caught at the bait, told me, with a great deal of good humour, that he would now no longer amuse me with baubles, such as those little squares, but that for the future I should learn to read like a man, and study books proper for the purpose; that, if I made haste, and got through that book, he would then furnish me with others, all beautifully bound in gilt paper; and that I should have *the History of England, a Description of Beasts and Birds*, and a multitude of other invaluable books.

The thoughts of having all these fine books, and still more the idea of being treated *like a man*, inspired me with the highest courage and resolution; and I now looked down with as much contempt on my pasteboard squares, as an old scholar does upon a young pupil newly admitted into school. In short, before the end of the year, I could read every lesson in that book, and almost every thing else that consisted of words of only two or three syllables. I
hope

AND PASTIMES. 9

hope I shall not appear vain, when I say, that my memory was remarkably strong; and I was the darling of all the good old ladies in the parish, for the elegant manner in which I read the common service of the church.

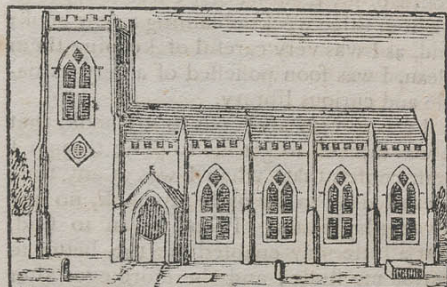
In the fifth year of my age, I became a good customer to the publisher of this work; for I made such hasty strides in the course of my reading, that I was every fortnight or three weeks obtaining a new book; and, as I was very careful of keeping them clean, I was soon possessed of a very valuable and curious library.

I was so very assiduous to my book, that it was difficult to get me to play; though I must confess that, when I was at any time prevailed on to lay aside my book, no boy loved play better. I soon began to find, that a little play enabled me the better to pursue my study; and therefore ever after devoted a small part of each day to some kind of amusement.

I began to be very fond of drawing; which, as I before observed, I first took the hint of from the pictures on my squares; and often, when I had been weary
of

10 JUVENILE SPORTS

of reading, before I knew properly how to hold a pen, began to draw houses, trees, churches, and such other things. I at first did this by stealth, fearing my father should think I neglected my books for what might appear to him as a trifle. However, he one day caught me when I did not expect him, and when I had just finished this picture.



It is not easy to express my fears and apprehensions while my father was looking at my picture, not knowing which I was to expect, his praises or his censure; and I was the more in dread of the last,
as

AND PASTIMES. 11

as it was become my most favourite amusement. He saw my perplexity, and soon relieved me from it, by thus addressing me. "Mike, I am not at all angry with you: I wish that every boy would thus think of relieving his mind from the study of one thing, by thus applying himself to others equally useful. From what I see in this first effort of your genius, I shall not be surprised should I hereafter find you at the head of the professors of this art, and even writing instructions for others."

Had the news of an important victory been brought to a crowned head, it could not have produced a more joyful countenance, than did this speech of my father: I determined to pursue the amusement of drawing with the most eager attention. It is however necessary that I should give both myself and my little readers a moment's recess from business, that they may be the better prepared to think properly on the contents of the next chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The manner in which the author was taught writing, the first rules in arithmetic, &c.

I Was still only in the fifth year of my age, when my father determined to set me to writing. For this purpose he bought a copy-book at my publisher's. This was filled with the alphabet of the great and small letters, and printed in red ink. My father's first business with me was to make me hold my pen properly, and this indeed was the most difficult task he had with me; but I conquered it at last, to his entire satisfaction, and my great pleasure.

With a pen dipped in black ink, I was directed to cover first the short, and then the long strokes, in order to give me a notion of the proper slopes of letters; from leaving this, I proceeded to make entire letters, then to join letters together, and form figures. The end of the book furnished me with examples of letters united into long words, and lastly the great or capital

pital letters. By these means alone, with very little further instruction from my father, I was enabled to write as good a hand as the generality of tradesmen do, and this without going to school; while others spend many pounds, and lose much valuable time in going through the rules of designing and self-interested teachers, without making, even at last, any considerable progress in this art. The utility of this writing-book, as well as of the squares before-mentioned, must be obvious to every one that inspects them.

As my ambition led me to aim at the highest perfection in this art, the beginning of my sixth year was employed in copying the productions of the best penmen; and I had the satisfaction of receiving the highest encomiums, from every one to whom my writings were shewn.

My father, encouraged by the quick progress I had lately made in reading and writing, proceeded to teach me arithmetic.

I have already observed, that I had learnt how to write figures; and my father now proceeded to teach me in what manner to

C apply

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apply them in common occurrences. He first taught me how to cast up little sums in *addition*, by telling me that 2 and 4 make 6, and 5 made 11, and so on to greater numbers. He afterwards went on to *subtraction*, by laying plumbs on the table, making me reckon them up; and afterwards, taking some from them, obliged me to tell him how many remained: but I was always more fond of *multiplication* than *subtraction*, as the former increased the number of my plumbs, and I was particularly careful to multiply right, for, if I made a mistake, I lost all.

My father then told me, that all merchants and great men were very particular in their accounts, and always balanced to a farthing, by which they at all times knew the true state of their affairs. He advised me to follow their example, and set down an account of every farthing I laid out, as I should then be enabled, every now and then, to look back and see how much any particular thing cost.

I was highly pleased at the thought of acting like a *merchant*, and putting on an air of business. My father bought me a large

quarto

AND PASTIMES. 15

quarto book, bound in parchment, and the leaves ruled with red ink. He knew it was much larger than any thing I should want; but was at the same time sensible, that the larger the book was, the greater would be the appearance of consequence. My concern was how I should find matter to enter in my book; but my father knew how to manage that business without letting me into the secret. Besides my own little accounts, one servant would come and borrow of me a penny for a day or two; another would desire me to keep six-pence for him till the morning; and here I was obliged to keep a separate account between debtor and creditor: but of all the servants, the cook found me the most work; for, all of a sudden, she was always mistaking in casting up the value of such a quantity of meat at such a price per pound. This was often a very difficult task; but I never gave up any thing I once engaged in. By these means my book filled apace, for I entered every thing in it, and my father inspected it once a week. Thus I acquired a tolerable knowledge in arithmetic,

C 2. arithmetic,

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tic, long before any such thing is generally thought of.

I have this account-book still by me, and I often look into it with pleasure, as I there see the productions of my infant years. Should I live to be grey-headed, I may then perhaps look back to this little volume and my Drawing-book, and there see what were my sentiments before they were influenced by folly and prejudice.

To return. The rest of my time was variously busied in different pursuits. My father had bought me a very curious Map of England, which was coloured, and dissected, as it is called; that is, the counties were all cut from one another, but so curiously, that, when they were put together, it looked like one entire piece.

This map my father threw into confusion, and then ordered me to put the counties properly together, so as to form one piece, like what they did at first. I found this a difficult task for some time; but, after many trials, I became so perfectly acquainted with the situation of every county, that I could not only put my map together almost in an instant, but have frequently

AND PASTIMES. 17

quently had the pleasure to decide the disputes of my elders, when they differed in opinion concerning the vicinity of one county to another.

Having thus acquired a perfect knowledge of the situation of the counties, my father took away my dissected map, and gave me *Mr. Gibson's new and accurate maps of the counties of England and Wales, drawn from the latest surveys*. From these I learned the names and situations of all the principal rivers in England, chief cities, capital towns, bays, harbours, and such other things as appeared to him necessary. In order to render these matters the more easily to be acquired, and seemingly with less labour, I was directed every day to read a few pages of *the Description of England and Wales*, and compare the places mentioned in the book with the same as described in the maps. By thus reading an account of the place which I viewed in the map, it fixed it so strongly in my memory, that I seldom ever after forgot it.

When I had made myself properly acquainted with the geography of England, my father, as a reward for my industry,

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presented me with *Dr. Brookes's Gazetteer*; so that now, instead of confining myself to England, I was to study the whole world at large. The method my father took for this purpose was as effectual as it was pleasing.

Every morning, as soon as we had breakfasted, my father used to give me *The Daily Advertiser* to read to him. His reason for preferring that paper to others was, because the news was generally authentic, and that there was seldom any thing in it that could corrupt the morals of youth, or entice them from the paths of virtue, all which he could not truly say of any other public paper.

I read the paper to him paragraph by paragraph, and at the end of each I stopped, to tell him what I knew of the places mentioned therein, in what part of the world they were situated, their government, customs, &c. If I could give no account of the places mentioned in the paragraph of news, I was then obliged to have recourse to my Gazetteer, where I was sure to find as much as was necessary to be known on that occasion. From Dr. Brookes, I turned

AND PASTIMES. 19

turned to my maps, and, having found it there, I took particular notice of what people or nations surrounded it, and sometimes gave an account of some of them, which I remembered reading before. In this manner I proceeded with every material paragraph.

As my Gazetteer was too cumbersome to carry about me, I purchased of my publisher *Atlas Minimus*, which is a collection of little maps, shewing the situation of every part of the world. This book was constantly my pocket companion; for it took but little room, and was always ready to afford me the most rational amusement. In the hot summer days, while other boys were sleeping in the grass, I, under the shade of some wide spreading tree, with the assistance of the Atlas, could trace the utmost boundaries of the world, view the situation of the remotest regions, and trace those immense oceans, over which mankind venture in pursuit of gain. It still accompanies me in my morning and evening walks; and though I look upon myself at this time as a great proficient in geography, I still find it useful to consult occasionally, and

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and particularly in those moments when the mind is apt to wander through the void of idleness.

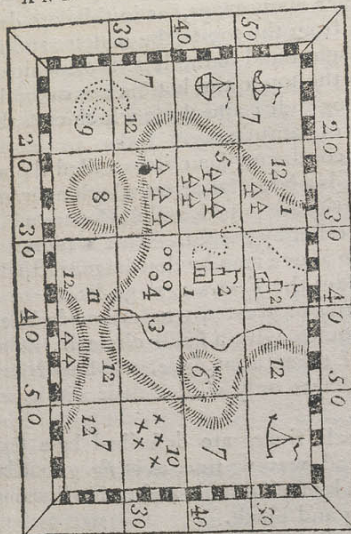
Geography was always, and still is, one of my favourite amusements. It was not long after I began learning this science, when I drew the following plan of a map; and, as it may perhaps be of some service to my little readers, I shall here give an explanation of it.

The top of the map, of all modern ones at least, is called the north; the bottom, the south; the right-hand side, the east; and on the left, the west. When the map is not thus constructed, a flower-de-luce is generally placed in some part of it, which, always pointing towards the north, shews the different points of the compass.

On the top of the map, between the marginal lines, are placed the several figures, which shew the number of degrees of eastern or western longitude, which every place, that lies directly under these figures, is distant from the first meridian.

On

AND PASTIMES. 21



On the right and left hand of every map, between the marginal lines, are placed figures that shew the number of degrees, either north or south, every place is distant from the equator, and is called northern or southern latitude.

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Over many maps, as in this, are drawn lines from the top to the bottom, and from the right hand to the left: those which run from the top to the bottom are called lines of longitude; and those which cross them, lines of latitude.

A continent, sometimes called the main land, is a large space, on which many great countries are joined, and not separated from each other by the sea. This is represented in the above map by that large tract, which includes the *figures 1, 2, 3, &c.*

Cities or great towns are made like little houses, with a small circle in the middle of them, as at *fig. 2.* and smaller towns or villages only with a little circle, as at *fig. 4.*

Small rivers are described by a single, crooked, waving line, as at *fig. 3;* but large rivers by such double and treble lines made strong and black.

Forests are represented by a collection of little trees, as at *fig. 5.*

A lake is a large piece of water, inclosed all round with land, and not having any visible and open communication with the sea, as at *fig. 6.*

The

AND PASTIMES. 23

The ocean, or the main sea, is a vast spreading collection of water, which is not divided or separated by lands coming between them. This is generally left as an empty space on the map, except where there are rocks, sands or shelves, currents of water or wind described. See the *figures 7.*

An island is a country, or portion of land, encompassed about with the sea, and such is Great-Britain. See *fig. 8.*

Sands or shelves are denoted by a great heap of little points, as at *fig. 9.* These are placed in the shape of those sands, as they have been found to lie in the ocean, by sounding or fathoming the depths.

Rocks are sometimes made like little pointed things sticking up sharp in the sea, as at *fig. 10.*

A strait is a narrow part of the ocean, lying between two shores, whereby two seas are joined together. See *fig. 11.*

A coast, or shore, is all that land which borders upon the sea, whether it be in islands or continents: And this is represented by light dashes placed close together, as at *figures 12.*

Thus

Thus much for the description of my map. I am sufficiently aware of the objections which a complete geographer will make to what I have here done, and that he will tell me, I have touched too lightly on this subject. I own it. It was impossible to say more within the narrow boundaries of my present undertaking; and, if the little I have here given shall prove an inducement to any of my little readers to pursue the subject still further, I shall think I have done as much as could be reasonably expected from me at this time. I will only add, that they cannot read history, nor even a common news-paper, with any pleasure or advantage, without being in some measure conversant in the essential points of geography.

I was now drawing to the close of my sixth year, when my father thought it expedient to add history to geography. It was his method of treating me, to proceed in such a manner, that every new step I took should tend to open and extend the paths I had just trodden, and that every new branch of literature I entered into, should furnish inexhaustible occasions of making

making me reflect nicely on what I had learned before but in part; for it is impossible to learn any one science complete till we become perfectly acquainted with the various branches with which it is connected. I may perhaps be here supposed to attempt to reason in a manner above the capacity of a youth of my years; but I will be free enough to tell those who think so, that they have not, like me, minded what they have read, or what they have heard flow from the wise lips of others.

CHAP. III.

*The author is sent to a boarding-school. —
Account of an accident previous thereto.*

I Had now entered the seventh year of my age, when my father began to entertain thoughts of sending me to some good school. He had hitherto attended me very closely in my literary pursuits; but to accompany me through the craggy paths of the Latin, Greek, and French Grammars, he found would engross too much of his

D time,

time, and thereby perhaps disable him from doing justice to his clients as a counsellor, in which character it was always his ambition to give the utmost satisfaction to all his clients.

At this period I could read almost any English book, on common subjects, with the greatest accuracy and propriety. I could write three different hands, cast up any common account in arithmetic, had a tolerable idea of geography, was making a hasty progress in the study of history, and was tolerably expert at taking off any drawing at sight, which was not very difficult. Let not the reader imagine, that, when I say this, I mean to extol my own genius, or to expose my vanity. Though the genius of a youth is undoubtedly the principal mover in the pursuit of science, yet it is by no means the only one. I had the happiness to fall into hands that were well acquainted with the true mode of education; and had I not under such a director acquired every thing I have just mentioned, I must have been a dunce indeed. England swarms with schools and teachers to such a degree, that one would imagine

imagine every native was a profound scholar; but, alas! it is found by experience, that nine out of ten of these teachers have as much need of being taught as their pupils. Hence it is, that many bright geniuses are for ever lost to the world.

Permit me now to make a digression.—There are few authors, I am told, who write their own histories; and those who do, describe all their good qualities, but say little of their defects. I am now going to give my readers an instance that I am not partial even to myself. When I confess my error, I have a right to plead my defence, to beg mercy from my kind readers, and to hope that they will attribute my errors to the little experience I may reasonably be supposed to have had: I have, in one instance, bought wisdom by experience.

My father, after several times coming upon me unexpectedly, observed, that even my amusements tended to improvement; and therefore at last left me to amuse myself in what manner I best liked, without even giving himself the trouble of asking me what I was about. I was naughty

D 2 enough

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enough to abuse his confidence, and, instead of pursuing innocent amusements, I had like totally to have ruined myself,

All on a sudden I became very fond of making squibs, serpents, and crackers; and had arrived to so much perfection in that art, that I at all times sold enough of them to clear all my expences, besides retaining a great number for my own use. I knew I was then doing what my father would by no means approve of, and which ought to have been a sufficient reason for me not to have done it.

The most difficult part of this operation was the grinding of the powder: it required some time, and besides made me very nasty, in spite of all the care I could take. I therefore set my head to work, in order to discover some method of doing this more easily, and with more cleanliness. After puzzling my head for many days together, I at last thought myself happy in having found out a secret and expeditious machine. This was my mother's coffee-mill.

I got up early the next morning, before the rest of the family, that I might try the

AND PASTIMES. 29

experiment unseen by any one, and before the coffee-mill could be wanted for breakfast. I put about an ounce of powder into the top of the mill, and instantly began grinding. In the midst of the operation, the iron grinder becoming hot, as I since suppose, set fire to the powder, the mill was instantly split into a great number of little pieces; one of which took its course along a shelf full of crockery, and did no small execution; and some of the rest made terrible havock with the windows: happily for me, none of the pieces hit me; if they had, I should never have been able to tell what hurt me: indeed, it was bad enough with me as it was.

When the mill bursted, it was with such a prodigious loud report, that it was heard in every part of the house. The servants hastened into the room, and found me in a pitiful situation, the powder in the upper part of the mill having scorched my face, and deprived me of my sight. The pain I felt at this time, which is hardly to be expressed by words, was not so great as the apprehensions of my father's just reproaches. However, being informed of

my situation, he hastened to me, and only said, "Mike, I thought you would have known better." A surgeon was instantly sent for; and, as the greatest mortification that could befall me, I was not permitted to see day-light for ten days, nor suffered to read in a book for near fifteen.

Let my little readers remember, that gunpowder was made for the destruction of mankind, and not for the amusement of little boys: let them remember the accidents that every day arise from the use of it, how many lose their sight, and sometimes their lives, and I am sure they will join with me in hating it.

The surgeon that attended me having declared my life and my eyes too to be out of danger, my father employed himself very attentively in procuring me a school to his liking, which he presently accomplished. As soon as my eyes were perfectly recovered, every thing was prepared for my departure. I remember very well, the morning before my departure, the advice my father gave me. He called me into his study, and thus said to me:—
"Mike, I am sorry, for your sake and my

"OWN

"own satisfaction, that I cannot spare time
"to complete your education myself: how-
"ever, I am willing to believe that I shall
"put you into such hands, as will give
"you little reason to lament the loss. I
"am the more ready to put you out to
"school, as it will give you some know-
"ledge, and that in the early part of your
"life, of the various dispositions of the hu-
"man mind; and, from the constant atten-
"tion you have paid to your studies, I
"doubt not but you will make such obser-
"vations thereon as will tend to your ad-
"vantage. At home, your mother and I
"indulge you through fondness; and the
"servants, perhaps through a motive of
"pleasing us, make it their study to amuse
"you. At school you must expect nothing
"of this sort: you will have no respect
"paid you, further than your good beha-
"viour may claim from every one. For
"this reason, quarrel with no one, do every
"one all the service you can, and be sure
"never to speak with anger against any boy
"that is absent."

I listened with the greatest attention to what my father said, and endeavoured to
treasure

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treasure it in my mind; but I made no reply. The hour arrived for my departure: my mother took many and many kisses; my sisters ran and hid themselves, that they might not behold the melancholy scene of my departure; and the servants, particularly the maids, could not help crying; which last gave me great satisfaction, as I could not suppose but that those tears flowed from the fountain of esteem. I endeavoured to act *like a man*, and conceal my own emotions.

The moment for my departure arrived; my father conducted me to the post-chaise, and off we went. On our arrival at the school, while my father was busy in talking with my master, I took a survey of the premises, and could find nothing in it disagreeable. The situation was pleasant, play-room spacious, and, what pleased me much, there was a fine grove, in which, at my leisure hours, I could sit under the shade of the trees, secure from the boldest rays of the sun, and read my book.

While I was making these observations, I was called to take leave of my father. This was a trying affair. I had resolved,
in

AND PASTIMES. 33

in order to convince him, that I was ready to submit to his pleasure on all occasions, not to shed a tear. I had hitherto kept my resolution, though with some difficulty; but now, in spite of me, the tears stole down my cheeks, and my speech failed me. My father saw my situation, but seemed to take no notice of it; and, after having bidden me a farewell, stepped into his chaise, and returned home.

The next day was allowed me, as a holiday, to look about me. It was then I drew this view of our school house, by which my little readers will see it was no contemptible one.



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I found by experience, what before I could not believe, that every young gentleman, at his first coming to a boarding school, is generally looked upon with a great deal of contempt by the upper scholars, who sometimes think too much of themselves. I asked one a question, he turned from me without condescending to give me an answer; a second laughed at me; and a third even gave me a knock on the pate. I thought of this matter very seriously when I went to bed, and did not forget the wise admonitions my father had given me; but I found that there was some little difference between theory and practice, and I could not brook the thoughts of being affronted: to tell my master, I thought would be *childish*.

Having now resolved what part to act, the next day I asked one of the above three, what was the hour of the day. He answered me in a very surly manner: I reasoned with him; he gave me the first blow, and I thrashed him soundly. A second was playing at marbles; I asked if I might make one. He came to me, and gave me a knock on the head, for which I returned

AND PASTIMES. 35

returned a couple, when he walked off very contentedly, seemingly not any ways desirous of having more.

These were the only times I ever had any quarrels with my school-fellows: for, as this passed in the presence of them all, one half admired my courage and resolution, and the other half courted me through fear.

My endeavours were now constantly employed to retain by friendship and kind actions the esteem I had acquired by force. I soon convinced them of the naughtiness of treating new scholars in that manner; and presently acquired such credit among them, as to be desired to determine those disputes, which otherwise could have been settled only by blows. I am sure I am not vain of myself in saying this; for if every one cannot say as much, it must be their own fault only.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

In which the author concludes his memoirs.

THE remainder of my seventh year was principally employed in grammatical studies; though a particular part of each day was appropriated to drawing. It was lucky for me, as I was so fond of this art, to fall into the hands of a master, who is justly esteemed one of the greatest we now have.

My eighth year was for the most part confined to the reading of Latin and French authors, of which I now began to have some knowledge, and was particularly fond of Æsop's Fables. My time, however, was not so entirely taken up with the reading of the classics, as to disregard every thing else; Geography, and the first rudiments of Astronomy, had proper attention paid them, as well as History. I was also every day making some improvements in Drawing; and it was about this

this time that I drew the following landscape.



My ninth year opened with matters of consequence. I had arrived to such perfection in the art of drawing, that all the young artists were put under my direction. This was a circumstance sufficient to have made me vain, had not the wise admonitions of my father been present in my mind. It was one of his golden rules, "He who is vain and insolent in prosperity, will be mean and servile in adversity."

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Expe-

38 JUVENILE SPORTS

Experience now taught me, what I before only guessed at, that means might be found to procure better materials for the assistance of young ladies and gentlemen in the delightful art of drawing, than what were then generally made use of. With this view I compiled a little book, which cost me much labour; wherein I not only drew the different parts of the body separate, but gave directions likewise how to imitate them, beginning with the easiest, and proceeding gradually to those which were more difficult.

When I had finished my book, I submitted it to the inspection of our governor, our drawing-master, and some other gentlemen, who were pleased so much to commend it, as even to say, that no young artist ought to be without it, and for that reason it ought to be printed. I could not at first endure the thought of becoming an author; for I had heard say, that no man is more wretched or deplorable than he who writes for his bread. However, I was soon persuaded out of this notion, on being reminded, that the greatest men Europe ever produced, have considered it

as

AND PASTIMES. 39

as an honour to have their works read by others; and that I ought not to consider myself as one of those little scriblers, who are obliged to do any thing for pay. It may be necessary to inform my readers, that my real name is not Michel Angelo; that being only given me by my drawing-master as a compliment, and which I constantly go by in the school.

It was not long after the publication of my Drawing-book, when I began to entertain thoughts of writing this little treatise on Juvenile Sports and Pastimes. I first took the hint from the following picture, which accidentally fell into my hands, and which was beautifully executed.



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You here see a little boy attentively poring over his book, while Minerva is endeavouring to entice him from it, by offering him a marble. The meaning of it appears to me to be this: Minerva, who is the supposed goddess of wisdom, is not to be courted by a too constant attention to study, and without devoting a small portion of time to amusement, for which purpose she is offering him a marble as an assistant to recreation. I could wish to make even our amusements useful; and, I am convinced, such they may be made with a very little attention.

I recollected that some great men, far advanced on the stage of life, have taken singular pleasure in turning back to view the employments of their boyish days, and in reading the remarks they then made. Like them, I turned back to all my old papers; and among them found many of the remarks, and some whole chapters, of what follows. Where they wanted amendment, I corrected them; such as displeased me, I expunged; and where any new additions seemed to be necessary, I attentively made them.

It

AND PASTIMES. 41

It may perhaps be expected, that I should run through all the long catalogue of the sports and pastimes of boys; but that would be impossible in a volume of this size, as well as useless. To mention those games, which are too simple in themselves to admit of any improvement, and so well known as to stand in no need of a description, would be idle. What more can be said of this pastime,



than that when two boys play at battledoor and shuttlecock, they should endeavour to strike it in a proper direction, neither too gently nor too hard; that the battledoor should be made of well-seasoned

E 3

oak;

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oak; that the feathers of the shuttlecock should be smooth, and placed even; that the cork should be found and hard; and that a small nail should be driven into the bottom of it, to give it a proper weight?

Such as these I have omitted; and have noticed those only in which some improvement could be made, some errors pointed out, and some littleness removed. The art of dump-making every little artist supposes himself master of; but I flatter myself, that, when he comes to read the next chapter, he will be inclined to believe, that the present mode is paltry and pitiful, and that it is capable of very great improvements. I wish I could persuade my little readers to carry this art to such a perfection, that it might not be called *dump*, but *medallion-making*; and this I am convinced, might be accomplished with a little attention, and without the least danger.

In the sixth chapter I have entered into some important considerations on tops. Here I have exploded some errors, which the generality of young artists

AND PASTIMES. 43

tists run into without the least consideration; and, after having pointed out the defects, have endeavoured to remove them, by means founded on reason and experience, which are the best tutors in the world.

I have given a distinct chapter on the whipping of tops and gigs; and if I have not added much to the improvement of this pastime, and removed all that vexatious labour which many inconsiderate artists experience, I shall think I am very much mistaken. Great disappointments often arise from little causes; and, until the latter are known, the former cannot be prevented.

In the eighth chapter I have given some strictures on the game of trap-ball. Of this I shall here only observe, that I am sorry to see this game deprived of all its former art and ingenuity—beyond all redemption; and still more sorry am I to say, that the destroyers of it are grown gentlemen!

I hasten from this to the game of cricket, in which I have given some directions; which, I think, if properly attended to, will

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will not only add to the improvement of the player, but will likewise save him many a six-pence in his pocket, and how necessary a point the taking of saving measures may be, is well known perhaps to all my little readers.

In the tenth chapter I have been very particular in describing the method of making bows and arrows. Shooting is a very agreeable pastime; but at present it is in a manner sunk into disgrace, without the least apparent reason. It was the favourite amusement of our ancestors, and I cannot see any reason why it should not be ours. Let us throw aside the mischievous gun, and have recourse to our bow and arrow, which we can make at a very trifling expence, and which will at all times be ready to afford us a very manly amusement.

In the eleventh chapter I have mentioned some new improvements on the game of Hockey; and, in the twelfth, which concludes the work, my little readers will find a dissertation on Marbles, such as, I hope, will afford them all the satisfaction they can reasonably wish for.

My

AND PASTIMES. 45

My little readers will permit me, before I close this chapter, to observe to them, that as it should be the study of every one, while he is at his book, to employ his time to the best advantage, so should he not suffer those leisure hours devoted to play to pass away idly. He should choose such sports as are manly, and require activity or ingenuity; if both, so much the better. By these the mind is relieved from too close an application, and health and vigour are procured; the stomach is prepared to digest the food it receives, and a good appetite is its constant companion. However, in all kinds of bodily exercises, some precautions should be used; for instance, cricket is a laborious game, and generally played at in the hotter months. I knew an imprudent boy, who, after having ran himself into a violent heat, pulled off his clothes, and jumped into a river, in order to cool himself: but the consequence was fatal; and his unhappy parents were left to lament the loss of an only son, who till then seemed to promise to be the comfort of their old age. His blood was chilled by the water, and
he

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he died after a sad illness of three weeks. As you must not bathe when you are hot, so neither should you then drink cold water.

When an aged gentleman advises you to give over any sport you are at, be sure that you follow his advice; for, though you may imagine there is no harm or danger in it, yet be assured that he knows better than you. Young folks too often *think* that they are capable judges for themselves; but old folks *know* they are not: the latter speak from wisdom and experience, the former from vanity and folly. Do not forget that old proverb, "An obstinate temper never wants woe."

CHAP V.

The Art of Dump-making.

IT was some little time before I could persuade myself to enter into any particulars concerning the art of dump-making, and this from my own knowledge of accidents

AND PASTIMES. 47

dents that have frequently happened to those who have been much engaged in the art; but when I began to reflect, that these accidents have proceeded merely from carelessness and inattention, my objections immediately vanished. I shall therefore proceed to business without further apology, and shall only present you with the picture of a little fellow hard at work.



The first thing to be considered in the making of dumps, is the preparation of the moulds; and this indeed is the most capital part of the business; for, if the moulds

are

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are indifferent, or any ways defective, good dumps can never be produced from them. I have known some artists to make their moulds with free-stone, and some even with clay or whiting. The first is generally too hard, and the two last by no means fit for the purpose, being much too soft. The best thing for this purpose is fine clear hard chalk, which is perfectly free from flinty knots, or any other foreign body.

If you should be lucky enough to get a piece at once fit for your purpose, be careful that you do not spoil it in the manufacturing: for such pieces as are proper for the purpose are hard to be come at. This piece should be about the size of a penny-loaf. Cut this in half, the long way, either with an old saw, or any other instrument that will answer the purpose.

After having cut it in half, the two faces will naturally be very rough; in order to smooth which, you must rub them a little on a smooth stone with some water. After this wipe off all the wet and slime which may stick to them, and then rub them gently together, till, on holding them up ^{to}

AND PASTIMES. 49

to the light, you cannot see the least glimpse of light through them. In this point you should be particularly careful; for, if the least cavity is left, the hot metal, when it is poured into it, will find its way through it, and may probably scald you, unless you take great care.

When you have properly smoothed the two faces, you may then proceed to fashion the outsides of your moulds. Four inches long, and three wide, are a very proper size: to make them larger, would only add to their weight, and cause them to be cumbersome; to make them less, would be reducing the number of your casts to two dumps only.

It is a common practice with some artists to chip off with a knife, or some such thing, all the outer rough parts of the mould; but this is a very wrong method, as I have often seen them broke to pieces by this means: I rather would advise them to grind them on a smooth stone; for, though there is a little more trouble in it, it is a safer way, and does not expose you to that heart-breaking circumstance of destroying all your work by ^{one}

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one single blow. Having now made the faces smooth, and modelled the outside to your mind, put them into a chimney corner, where they will dry and harden.

A day or two afterwards you may take them from thence, and proceed to the grand operation, which is that of making the dyes. In this branch of the art, the first thing to be considered is the size of your intended dumps. And here I must observe, that the generality of young artists are very saving and penurious, as I hardly see any dumps bigger than a farthing. I would wish my little pupils to have a more liberal mind, and not suffer this noble science to be treated in so contemptuous a manner. When the dye is so very small, there can be no room for the artist to shew his dexterity or design. Indeed it is too often the case, that this last point is not at all considered, and, so that it is but a dump, no matter what sort of one it is.

My rule has always been to make them the size of a half penny; and I have had the constant pleasure of finding every boy ready to hazard *five* of his against *one* of mine.

AND PASTIMES. 51

mine. Indeed, so great has been, and still is, the reputation of my casts, that Angelo's dumps are as highly esteemed as ever were Elzevier's Bibles. In every juvenile science, it is a very promising sign to see boys soaring above vulgar errors; and, instead of being satisfied merely with imitating their predecessors, aim at striking out something new and magnificent.

But let me quit this long digression, and proceed in my business. Having resolved on the size of your dump, draw as many circles on your moulds as the size of your intended dye will admit; but be sure to leave so much distance between them, as may be necessary to preserve the strength of the partitions; I mean, by partition, that space which is between the dumps in the mould.

When you have, with the greatest exactness, drawn these circles, lay aside your compasses, and, with a moderately sharp and flat-pointed knife, proceed to scoop out the hollows; but be particularly careful that you do not spoil the round, by paring beyond the mark made with the compasses.

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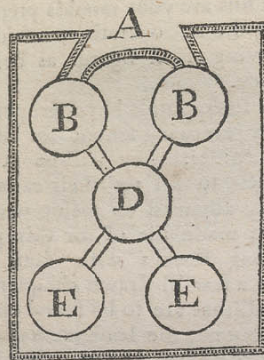
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The depth of your mould must be determined by the thickness of your intended dump; and here, as I before advised you to make it the size of a half-penny, so would I advise you to make it of the same thickness. For this purpose, you may put a half penny into the dye, and, when it is perfectly even with the surrounding sides, you will then be certain that you have scraped to a sufficient depth. If the half-penny sticks up in any particular part, take it out, and scrape away the obstacle; for, the beauty of your cast depends much on its roundness and equality of thickness.

Having made the bottom of each dye perfectly smooth and level, then cut the proper channels for the metal to pass through the mould from one dump to another. The annexed representation may perhaps make this matter appear more clear than from words only.

Cut

AND PASTIMES. 53



Cut a deep and wide notch in the mould at A; from this carry two little gutters, to convey the hot metal into the two casts B B. From each of these cut another channel, to convey the metal into the center cast D; and observe the same method for E E. These groves or channels should be rather deep than wide, as the metal will thereby have less time to cool before it arrives at the last dyes,

F 3

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dyes. Thus are your moulds prepared for receiving the last operation, which is that of engraving such figures as best please your fancy.

If my little pupils have properly made use of my Drawing-school for little Masters and Misses, they will be at no loss for subjects to fill up their casts. I am frequently ashamed on seeing what paltry things are made use of for this purpose: a few long strokes with dots between them, or a few ill-drawn chequers, are in general all that are to be found on modern dumps; but not the least marks of design, not even the bare attempts at genius.—O! shame to think on it! O! shame to such artists!

I shall perhaps make some of my little pupils wonder when I assure them, that I once spent a whole day in the engraving, of a dye; but their wonder will perhaps cease, when I produce one of the dumps cast from it; and here it is for your inspection.

This

AND PASTIMES. 55



This is the head of a great man, and I am sure you will agree with me, when I tell you it is my father's. This very head has procured me immense treasures, for, though my dye is almost worn out by the number I have cast in it, yet I have not a dozen by me. The reason is, the likeness is so strong, that all the neighbouring gentlemen have bought them of me at a very high price. The lord of the manor had two, for which I received a large basket of the finest apples, and another of Orlean plumbs: 'Squire Goodwill, for one of them, made me a present of several

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veral most curious books, which to me, he truly said, were of more value than fruit. To give you the whole catalogue of the presents I received on this occasion would be endless; I shall therefore only acquaint you, that our good bishop, who desired to have four of them, made me the most valuable present of all, *he gave me his blessing.*

The encouragement I received from this first attempt, induced me to make a second, See my little pupils, what was the result of it,



You here see the head of my amiable mother; though I must confess I have not been

AND PASTIMES. 57

been able to do her that justice she deserves. However, it has pleased the ladies, among whom my mother's head has procured me as much as my father's. I wish I could afford to cast them in gold?

We now come to the last point of consideration, the pouring the metal into the moulds; but before we enter on this matter, it may not be amiss to consider what metal is most proper for the purpose. I know many of my little pupils will wonder that I should propose any thing but lead; but I have many reasons for objecting to that metal. Lead is so soft, that if the dumps made of it are much played with, they soon become crooked and defaced, and not fit for use till cast over again, which must be performed with some labour, and a great deal of loss. I have known some naughty boys go to old and uninhabited houses, and break the windows, in order to steal the lead; but this, besides being a very wicked action, is also a foolish one, since, when they came to melt it they found it to be little else than dirt and dross, which, being so mixed with the

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the lead as not to be separated by once or twice melting, gave a nasty colour to the dumps, and rendered them unfit for either fight or use. It has always been my practice to use the best pewter I could buy at the shops; and though this is considerably dearer than lead, yet the pleasure and credit arising from the sight of them, amply repay all the expence; and, besides their superior graceful appearance, one dump made of pewter will outlast three leaden ones. I would advise all my little pupils to carry every thing to perfection, or not meddle with them at all.

When you have provided yourself with a sufficient quantity of pewter, (for lead I will suppose to be quite out of the question) put a little of it into an iron ladle, and let it remain over a clear fire till it is perfectly melted. Some artists content themselves with the bowl of a pipe for this purpose; but this is rather dangerous, as it is very apt to slip in the hand, or break in conveying it out of the fire. Observe to melt at one time very little more than you think will be necessary to fill the mould once, as it will be a very good method to prevent accidents.

AND PASTIMES. 59

While your pewter is melting, place the two faces of your moulds together, and see that they are perfectly close in every part. Then confine them together with a wet cloth, which will not only keep the moulds in their proper state, but will also protect your hand that holds it, should any of the hot metal, by an unforeseen accident pass the wrong way.

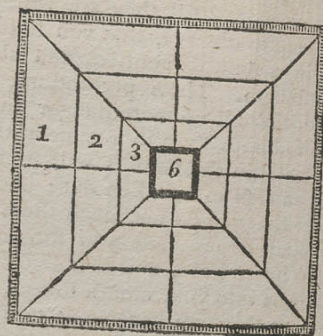
Being thus far prepared, as soon as you find your pewter is particularly melted, take your moulds in your left hand, and with your right empty the ladle into the moulds, or at least till they are full. Be careful here to observe, that you hold the moulds in a slanting position, and almost at arm's length. These precautions, duly observed, there is no more danger in the casting of dumps than in a game at taw.

The metal in the moulds will presently be cold enough to be taken out; but here take care that you do not touch them with your naked fingers, lest you should find them too hot to hold, and be obliged to put your fingers into your mouth to cool them. As soon as they are become fit to handle, cut off all the loose pieces that surround
the

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the dumps, and make their edges perfectly smooth with a file. In this manner you may proceed till you have made the quantity you proposed.

Having now finished the whole operation of dump-making, I shall beg leave to lay before my little pupils a new game of my own invention, appropriated to the use of the dump, and to which I have given the name of *The Lottery*. The whole is very simple, and is as follows,



Contiguous

AND PASTIMES. 61

Contiguous to our school is a spacious cloister, paved with free-stone. Here we amuse ourselves in wet weather, when we are not permitted to rove the more spacious field. Among our diversions at those seasons is the Lottery. On the smooth stones we chalk out the preceding figure, of which the squares are either larger or smaller, according to the abilities and experience of the players; for it is well known, that old hands will chuck to a greater nicety than young ones.

Having marked out our squares, in which we are very nice, that they may be truly geometrical, we then proceed to settle the order of succession for masters of the lottery, which is done in this manner. A knife is stuck up in one of the crevices between the paved stones; when each of us, retiring to a stated distance, pitch a dump at the knife. He who comes nearest it is master first, the second nearest succeeds him, and so on to the last.

Each then returns to the mark from whence he is to pitch, leaving the master to look after the frame. If the dump happens

G

pens

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pens to fall in any of the outer squares, the master returns him his own dump, and gives him another besides; if it settles in any of the next smaller squares, he then receives two; and if in the third smaller class of squares, he then receives three, exclusive of that which he chucked: but, in either of these cases, if his dump touches any part of the lines which divide one square from another, he forfeits his dump; and if it touches the black square which surrounds the center square, he forfeits two others. If he is so fortunate as to lodge his dump in the center square, he then receives his own and six others; but, if his dump happens ever so little to touch the black square, while the greater half of his dump remains in the center, he not only loses his own, but forfeits three others.

When every one has pitched his dump, the next boy, according to the order before settled, then commences master of the frame, and so on, till every one has performed that office, when the game is finished.

I have been so fortunate at this game, that I have won more dumps than some
miser

AND PASTIMES. 63

miser have guineas. Our governor is very much pleased with my invention; and tells us, that it ought to remind us how many chances there are against us of obtaining the prizes in human life; and that the dangers which surround the attempt to gain six dumps, are enough to deter any boy from attempting it, who has not a great share of experience and resolution.

CHAP. VI.

Important Considerations on Tops.

IT should at first sight seem, that little could be said on a subject, of which every boy is, in his own imagination, a perfect master; and yet I will venture to assert, that there are very few who know any thing of the matter. I know several of my little pupils will smile at me for so bold an assertion; but, if I do not make it good, then let it be said, that I have bestowed all my labour and study to little purpose.

G 2

I shall

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I shall first speak of what is commonly called *Peg-Top*. Of these there are very few good ones, and the methods generally taken by young artists to make them good, are highly absurd and ridiculous. The principal recommendations of a top are, the size of it, and the number of acorns (as they are called) on the peg; but if the top does not feel light in the hand while spinning there, it is instantly pronounced a bad one, and a thousand various tricks are tried to remove this sad and terrible failing. In this case the peg is instantly drawn, which is generally performed in this manner: The middle of the top-string is tied fast to the peg, and then the artist, taking hold of both ends of the string, beats the head against a post, till it flies off. The peg is then either dipped in some magic liquor, or wrapped round with a little hair, a feather, or indeed no matter what, for every thing is tried that can be thought on. I have heard some boys recommend, as an infallible remedy, the dipping of the peg in an apple-pudding, a cheesecake, or a custard; but I am convinced it is no matter which they try, since they are all equally good—
for

AND PASTIMES. 65

for nothing. The peg is then fastened in again, and the evil is rather increased than removed. The peg must come out again, and the head must consequently undergo a second bruising against the post. Trial after trial is made to no purpose; and the top, from being but a day or two ago a new one, is now so battered and bruised, that it looks like an old one, and is therefore thrown away in a pet with the utmost dissatisfaction and contempt.

It may indeed frequently be necessary to draw the peg of a new top; but this should always be done with the assistance of a vice, when the head will receive very little, if any injury. Having now laughed at the modern practice of making a top light, I shall proceed to point out wherein the error lies, and offer some new improvements in the instrument of so much pleasure as a good top affords us.

The head should be turned even and regular, not too long, nor yet so round as a turnip; but the grand point of all lies principally in boring the hole to receive the peg. It is owing to this not being done properly, that the head so frequently

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quently feels heavy, while spinning in the hand. The reason must be obvious, on a moment's reflection, to the most inexperienced artist. If the hole into which the peg goes is crooked, the peg must stand crooked also; and this will give a double motion to the top, which causes the evil complained of. The boy who runs leaning on one side, must run heavier than he who keeps his whole body properly poised, and will undoubtedly tire first. So it is with the top: the crooked position of the peg throws the top on one side, and hence, every time it turns round, must give some check to its force.

It is a general observation among artists, that a heavy top never *sleeps* well; and this very observation, made by every one, is of itself, sufficient to confirm what I have above observed. Look at this top,

AND PASTIMES. 67



and see how well it spins: it sleeps so soundly, that you cannot see any motion it has.

We must not always lay the blame on the turner, for the peg itself is sometimes in fault: if that is crooked, all the art of the former will never be able to make a good top. When I consider what great care and nicety is required, both in the turner and the peg-maker, I am not so much surprised that we have such a number of bad tops, as that we have any good ones. These people look upon us boys as so many chickens, who will pick up any thing that is thrown them. I have
how-

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however, on my part, always endeavoured to make them sensible of the reverse. With this view I never buy a top in the shops, but always agree with the turner to furnish me with a good one at an additional price. I never pay for it till I have tried it in his presence; and when there has been any fault, I have pointed it out to him: by these means I am never disappointed.

I come now to speak of the peg in another light, not as it concerns the light or heavy spinning of the top, but merely as in point of convenience. The value of the peg is always estimated by the number of acorns that surround it, and this, in a large peg, makes it come very expensive. With your leave, my little pupils, I will tell you, that so far from allowing the acorns to add any value to the top, I cannot help thinking but that it lessens it. I have seen many a good top despised and rejected, because it had what is called by some the *smuggler's*, by others more properly, the *quaker's* peg; and whenever I saw this, I always bought it at a very easy price.

I will

AND PASTIMES. 69

I will now give you my objections against the acorn pegs. When the top is in full spin, these acorns must act upon every thing that touches them like so many files in motion; and there is hardly an artist, who plays much with acorn tops, but carries many marks of violence between his fingers, which he received from the acorns of his peg. I cannot, for my part, conceive what objections there can be to the plain peg, since every one must be sensible that no inconvenience can attend it. I hold it indeed good, that there should be one acorn at the head of the peg, which may serve as an ornament, and prevent its making its way too far into the head. It is a very difficult matter to persuade little boys out of any thing they consider as a piece of finery; but such I wish to leave to themselves, and never desire to own them for my pupils.—I say a plain peg above all things!

I come now to the last point of consideration, the string, concerning which I have only to observe, that, if the top is small, thick whip-cord will be the best for use; but, if the top is of the largest size,
strong

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strong lay-cord will best answer the purpose. Unravel about an inch of it, at that end which you intend to twist round the peg; and, to prevent it from untwisting any further, bind it round with a piece of thread well waxed. Bore a hole in a dump, put the other end of the cord through it, and fasten it with a knot; the use of which is too well known to need any description. Always wet the end of your string before you twist it round the peg, as it will make it stick the closer, and give an additional force to the spinning of the top. Be sure that your string is not too long; for a short one, properly used, always answers the purpose best.

C H A P. VII.

Remarks on Whipping-tops and Gigs.

TH E whipping top affords a most wholesome and pleasing exercise for the winter months. I cannot find words to express my vexation, when I see a boy, in

AND PASTIMES 71

in a cold day, hovering over a fire, and scorching one side, while the other is freezing. Get up thou lazy little fellow, take thy whip and thy top, and imitate these two brave boys, who while they make themselves glow with heat, flog their top from one end of the hall to the other.



I have nothing now to offer with respect to the whipping top, further than I always prefer the paved stones to a boarded flooring. A large brass nail at the bottom adds much to the sport, as it makes him spin more merrily; and a few methodically

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thodically driven into the head, not only gives it a pretty look, but makes it the heavier, and causes it to move more regularly.

The whip is a matter that requires some consideration, as many errors are committed in the management of it. I have seen some little boys knock a whipping-top about for an hour together, without being able to get it into a strong spin, and, after many attempts have at last given it over, with tears in their eyes. They knew not that the fault lay in the whip, which was made of a long piece of slimy leather, fastened in a hole, made with a nail-piercer in the stick. Here were two capital faults; first, the leather was too weak; and secondly, it was improperly fastened to the stick.

If the leather is not of the toughest and strongest sort, it will by no means answer the end, as it will not have the power of commanding the motion of the top; indeed even a bit of rope would do better. The best thing for this purpose is, beyond all doubt, a well-dried eel-skin, especially after it has been made pliable by a little
use:

AND PASTIMES. 73

use: and here it may not be amiss to give a short direction how properly to dry them for your purpose. Take an eel-skin just after it is taken off the fish, and wash it; pull it out to its full length and breadth, and lay it in some place, perfectly smooth and stretched out, where it may not freeze; but by no means dry it by the fire, for that will shrink it up to nothing. It will be fit for use in a few days; but no matter how long it has to dry, for the drier it is the better it will be.

The method of fastening the leather or eel-skin to the stick, as generally practised, is very erroneous. A hole is made in the stick, and the skin run through it, being only fastened by a knot; so that, when you strike the top, it is uncertain whether you may hit it with the edge, or the flat part of the skin. If you chance to hit it with the flat, it is well enough; but, if you hit it with the edge, which is full as likely, you spoil the top's spinning for that bout. —Now the method I have always observed is this. I take the head-end of
H
my

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my eel-skin, and place about two inches of it along the top of the stick; this I fasten on tight with a waxed thread: and thus, when I use it, I have always the broad part of the skin at command; for, if I then hit the top with the edge, it must be owing to my own carelessness.

I must not quit this subject without mentioning the *gig*, which is a very merry little fellow, and traverses a great deal of ground in a short time. For this reason a room, or any confined place, does not at all suit him. He must have a spacious hall or cloister, in which he may have his full scope; and the artist must follow him up closely, lest he sneak into a corner.

CHAP.

AND PASTIMES. 75

CHAP. VIII.

The Game of Trap-ball.



THIS game is played very differently now to what it was formerly. The trigger used to be made of bone, and the bludgeon, with which they struck the ball, was not thicker than a mop-stick. But some gentlemen, who seem to be fond of imitating boys, have invented a trap, made in such a manner, that you need only touch the trigger, and the ball flies up before you without the least uncertainty. To make the business still more easy, they have a large broad bat, with which it is

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next

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next to an impossibility to miss the ball. As this game was played formerly, it required some dexterity; but the manner in which *gentlemen* play it at present, is a disgrace to *boys*; and on this account I was in doubt whether I should admit it among the games in my *Juvenile Sports and Pastimes*.

CHAP. IX.

Observations on the Game of Cricket.

OF all the games which afford amusement for the leisure hours of boys as well as gentlemen, there are none more manly than that of cricket, as it procures an appetite, health, and vigour. This game has undergone such few variations, that I cannot make many observations thereon, and shall therefore only observe, that the new mode of taking the advantage of bye-balls and overthrows, and thereby gaining as many notches as possible, is an innovation with which I am by no means pleased. It is indeed true, that this puts the *seekers-out* continually on their guard, and obliges them to be more mindful of their play; but then it diminishes

AND PASTIMES. 77

the credit of the player, in whose hands the bat is, as a game may be won by a very bad batsman, owing to the inability of the wicket-man, or the inattention of the *seekers-out*. Do you not, my little pupils, long to be among these little fellows who are so hard at it?



Permit me now to give a word or two of advice to the younger part of my pupils, who may not perhaps be yet perfect masters of this noble diversion. And, first, I will speak of the bat.

Every little sportsman is fond of having the upper part of his bat bound round

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with

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with waxed thread, though he is not capable of giving any reason for it. To such I am now speaking; and let me tell them, that the reasons for binding the handle are these: first, that the bat is not so liable to break; secondly, that it keeps the hands from slipping in striking a blow; and, thirdly, that it is not so liable to jar the hands.

Never buy a bat ready bound; for it is a common rule among the bat-makers, when there is any considerable flaw in the upper part of the bat, to cover the defect with binding, and sell it at an additional price: once or twice using, however, generally exposes the fallacy, though too late to be remedied. I would therefore advise every little artist to bind his own bat, which he may easily do, at a very small expence, in the following manner. Get a sufficient quantity of the finest twine; fasten one end of it to any thing that will hold it tight, and with a ball of shoemakers wax cover every part of it. Then mark on your bat, with a piece of chalk, how far you intend to bind it, which is thus performed. Lay the end of
your

AND PASTIMES. 79

your cord, after having turned it once round, long-ways on the bat, so that every succeeding turn may secure it even from the possibility of ever slipping out. Be careful every turn you take to lay it close to the former; so that, when it is finished, not the least appearance of the bat may be seen between any part of the waxed thread. When you have finished, be careful that you fasten the end tight, which may be further secured, by driving over it a small nail that has a strong head. Thus will you have a bat better bound than any you can buy ready done at the shops. I had like to have forgotten to remind you, that you always chuse those bats, the bottoms of which have a turn outwards, and that you cautiously suit the length of it to your own stature.

I proceed now to say something of the wicket, which is composed of two stumps and a bail. Here let me observe, that many little boys are very inattentive to this part; for, I have frequently seen the stumps made of little slim pieces of deal, not above six inches high; which, in the second or third bowling, have been
shattered

shattered to pieces, and the game interrupted till new ones could be made. Indeed, I have often seen the play totally stopt for that evening for want of new materials. Had they taken the following method, this disaster would never have happened.

Get a couple of good strong hoop-sticks, such as have been well seasoned, but not injured by moisture. Cut them into pieces of about two feet in length, and bend them on your knee till they are almost strait, but not quite so, then cut off the edges, and pare the bottoms to a point, in order the more easily to force them into the ground. Cut the tops flat, and make a notch in them, just to the size of the bail, which may be made of skewers used by butchers to fasten their meat. By having the notches on the top of the stumps cut the size of the bail, you prevent its being blown off by every puff of wind, which often proves a very vexatious impediment in the height of a most vigorously-contested game.

If these observations are properly attended to, you will seldom complain of a broken

a broken stump; but, in order to be guarded against any unforeseen accident, you should always carry with you three pair of stumps at least into the field.

I shall now dismiss this article of cricket-playing, with an observation or two worthy the attention of the young sportsman. When it is your turn to take the bat, observe that you stand at a proper distance from the wicket, neither too close, nor yet too far from it: if you stand too close, you may chance to knock yourself out; and, if you stand too far from it, you may be knocked out by the bowler, before you can recover your bat after aiming a stroke. The legal distance from your wicket is the length of your bat.

Nothing displeases me more than to see the batsman make a hundred different motions at the ball before it reaches him, and often before the bowler has delivered it. As soon as you see the bowler is aiming at your wicket, lift your bat a little; and, if the ball runs so close to the ground, that you cannot make a fair blow at it, or that it comes in such a direction, as to endanger the safety of your wicket: in those cases

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cases content yourself with chopping on the ball, so as to turn it aside, and many a notch is got in this manner: but if the ball comes hopping along, and affords you an opportunity of a free blow, then raise your bat, and repel the ball with all your force.

Do not straddle too wide before your wicket, as it will deprive you of the power of striking with that force as you would if you stood closer. Besides, the ball may in its course to your wicket, by a stone or any other obstruction, be accidentally turned out of its course: and, if you stand wide, you will not be able immediately to recover yourself, so as in time to take a necessary step to receive it. The proper use of the bat is the most ingenious as well as the most pleasing part of this game: and it has always been observed, that those are the best and neatest players, who seem to take the least pains, while they make sure of their stroke, and get the most notches.

Bowling is very laborious; but requires only practice and a strong arm. To throw up the ball nicely to the wicket is a great recom-

AND PASTIMES. 83

recommendation to a player; and the catching of it, when thrown from a great distance, requires a little art, which I shall here mention. When you see a ball coming to you, either from a great height, or struck to you with violence in a strait line, be sure you do not directly face it; for, in that case, should you miss it, it may do you mischief. The safest, and even the most likely way of catching a ball is, the moment you receive it into your hands, to give a swing round with it, by which its force will be stopped by degrees, and not all at once: by this method your hands will not be jarred, nor will you so often drop the ball as those do who observe a contrary method.

CHAP. X.

Method of making Bows and Arrows.

THOUGH the use of the bow and arrow has long been laid aside by the generality of the world, as well boys as young gentlemen, except in a very few places, yet it is a sport I am doatingly fond of;

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of; and am sorry to find it dwindled even to so low an ebb, as to become the pastime of little children only. Can any thing look more manly than this little fellow, who is shooting at a bird perched on a tree? and, from the manner in which he holds his bow and arrow, I will lay fifty marbles that he brings it down.



The reason why the bow and arrow are so much neglected is, as I apprehend, the want of knowing where to buy them, or how to make them. For my part, I would not give a penny for a hundred of those sold in the shops: they are indeed well enough

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enough for those infant children, who are too young to have any taste for science, and who buy their bows and arrows, like their drums and fiddles, that they may break them to pieces, and see what they are made of.

After two years practice in this pleasing art, and after having tried numberless experiments, at the expence of much labour and some cost, I flatter myself I am now enabled to give my young pupils such directions for the making of bows and arrows, as cannot fail to be acceptable to them. Indeed, the operation is so simple, and attended with so little expence, that I doubt not of having the honour of reviving an old science, which had long slept under the influence of ignorance and prejudice.

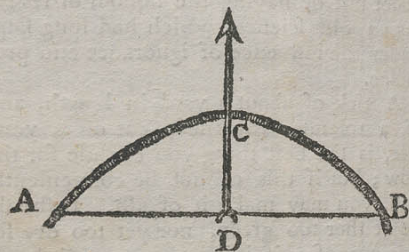
A stick of about a yard in length, and of a tolerable thickness, cut off a yew-tree, is the best thing you can use for the bow; but if this cannot be conveniently had, you may make it of ash. It should be neither too green, nor yet too dry for this purpose: if it is too green, a little use will soon deprive it of its power; and if

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it is too dry, it will perhaps snap in the bending. If you have an opportunity, cut a number of sticks in the summer, and let them lie exposed to the weather all that summer and the winter following. In the mean time, that your sport may not be stopped, you may make your bow of an ash stick, in the following manner.

Take an ash stick, of an equal thickness at both ends, that is not too dry and tough. Bend it on your knee till by degrees it begins to give at both ends; but mind that it bends more at the ends than in the middle. When you have so done, cut a notch at the ends, A B,



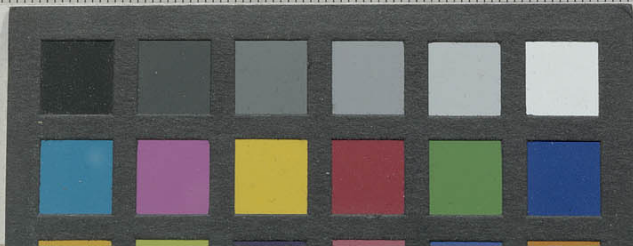
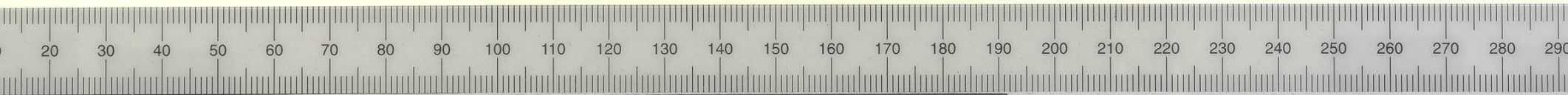
about an inch from each extremity: but be careful that you do not cut so deep, as

AND PASTIMES. 87

to endanger breaking of the bow when you pull the bow-string hard.

The next article to be considered is the bow-string, for which purpose the best thing you can use is strong cat gut. Fasten one end of this tight in the notch at A. Then put the end A on the ground, and bend the end B as much as you think proper, which should be in the same proportion as the preceding cut represents. When you have so done, fasten the cat-gut in the notch B, and your bow will be finished.

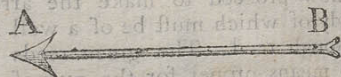
Having thus finished your bow, you must now proceed to make the arrow, the body of which must be of a well-seasoned tough reed. The green reeds are by no means proper for the purpose, as they are heavier and not so strong as the dried ones. The best sort of reeds for this purpose are those taken from fences made with them in gardens. A fence of this nature, of a year old, will afford you numberless excellent arrows; and I think a twelvemonth a very proper age: though I once made some very good ones out of a



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fence, which our gardener assured me had been put up above twenty years.

Having chosen the soundest and strongest reeds, and such as are perfectly strait, proceed thus to make them into arrows. Take a piece of green elder wood, about three times the thickness of the reed, and about two inches in length. Cut off the end of the reed within an inch of a knot, and thrust it gently into the pith of the alder, till you find the reed is tight. Then with your knife pare the alder to a point, as in the cut, at A. This is called the cap.



I knew a young gentleman, an exceeding good archer, who used to put into the point of his cap a piece of sharp-pointed steel made on purpose, with a shoulder to it to prevent its driving into the cap; and with these I have frequently seen him kill birds on a tree at a great distance; but as arrows of this kind may do mischief, with-

out

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out great care, I do not recommend the use of them.

Having thus finished the head of your arrow, the end to be hooked on the cat-gut only remains. This must be done at the joint, from whence cut slanting, on both sides the reed, when a kind of fork will remain, as at B in the last figure. Observe, this fork is cut in the same manner as you do a quill, in order to prepare it for making it into a pen.

I doubt not that my little pupils will by this time know perfectly well how to make a bow and arrow; and though they may at the first trial do it but indifferently, yet so easy a matter is it, that on a second or third trial they will arrive at perfection.

Though both bow and arrow may be made ever so completely, yet, if they are not properly used, both may be brought into disgrace; when the fault lies only in the artist: for this reason I shall give some short directions as to the use of it. Take hold of your bow with your right hand, at C*; then with your left hand, fix the fork of the arrow in the string at D.

* See page 86. Place

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Place

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Place the first and second fingers of your left hand on the middle of the string, one finger being on one side of the arrow, and the other finger on the other, the palm of your hand being upwards. When you intend to shoot, grasp the bow tight at C, with your right hand, and let the arrow rest against it; but take care that you do not confine the arrow with your fingers. Then, with the two fingers of your left hand, draw the string at D as tight as you think may be necessary, according to the distance you intend to shoot. Observe, that your fingers only keep the forks of the arrow in their place, without pressing any weight upon them. Let your string go on a sudden, and there will then be no doubt of the arrows performing its office.

The amusements of the bow and arrow are very pleasing, and will become more so in proportion, as the artist becomes more dextrous at it. I have frequently thrown a reed arrow out of one of these bows higher than the eye could pursue it; and I have sent one of them considerably further than a good fowling-piece could carry shot.

AND PASTIMES. 91

shot. I hope I shall not be called a wicked boy, when I assert, that many a bird, at fifty yards distance, has fatally felt the power of my bow, and the point of my arrows. Should my country ever want my assistance in the field of battle, I shall ever be ready to attend the call with my bow and arrow.

CHAP. XI.

New Improvements on the Game of Hockey.

THIS is a noble and manly exercise, but is proper only for the cooler months of the year, as it requires a great share of activity. It was undoubtedly first taken from the Irish game of Hurling, which it resembles in almost every respect.

The materials for this sport are only of three sorts; the goals, the hockey, and the hockey-sticks, all which are easily to be procured, and without much expence. Before I describe these matters to my little

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the pupils, I must beg them to stop a moment, and view this picture; and I am inclined to believe they will wish it were possible for them to make one among these merry little fellows.



This sport can be pursued no where with pleasure, but in a wide spacious field, where the hockey may have its full scope. This game may be played by any even number of boys, divided into two parties. Each party must fix their goal at the greatest distance from one another the field will admit of, leaving however about ten feet space between each goal and the extremity

AND PASTIMES. 93

mity of the field. The goals need consist only of a very long piece of briar, each end being stuck in the ground, and thereby forming a kind of erect arch. The goal at the upper end of the field is called the upper goal, and the other the lower: the parties who play are likewise distinguished in the same manner.

Every one who plays must be provided with a hockey-stick. This is a matter of no small consequence, as I have known a boy give another almost any thing for one which has pleased his fancy; and I myself have parted with a minced pie upon the same occasion. I will now give you the description of a good hockey-stick. It is no matter what wood it is, so that it is tough, not liable to break, and has the desired form. It must be about a yard long, or rather in proportion to the size of the sportman. The top of it, I mean that part of it which you hold in your hand, may be as thick as a common walking-stick; but the thicker it is at the bottom the better. The bottom, however, must not be strait, but crooked, and that in the form of a shepherd's crook is valuable beyond

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yond everything. The use of the crook part is to disengage the hockey from your antagonists, when it is so surrounded by them that you cannot get at it to give it a full stroke toward their goal.

The kockey must be made of the largest cork-bung you can get. Cut the edges round, and then it is prepared for use.

The goals being fixed, the hockey prepared, and the parties agreed on, you then proceed to your sport in the following manner. Both parties meet as nearly as possible, in the middle between the two goals, when the hockey is tossed up, and every one tries his best to beat the hockey through the goal of his antagonist; which being once accomplished, the game is over. I have known a game last for two or three hours, though followed up with the greatest ardour and alacrity, such have been the excellent sportsmen who composed the two parties.

There is a wide difference in merely playing this game, and playing it genteely. Some boys are of such an eager, warm disposition, that they care not whom they hurt, or whose skin they break, so that

AND PASTIMES. 95

that they get at the kockey; but this is the mark of a bad player. A right sportsman is always cool, and ready to take any advantage that offers, without having recourse to unfair proceedings. When he sees the kockey is so surrounded by both parties, that he cannot get a fair stroke at it, he makes one among them with his crook, and endeavours to get it between, so that, by a sudden jerk, he may disengage it from him; while others, who are as good players as himself on the other side, will endeavour to prevent it, by beating their hockey-sticks against his, and at the same time aiming to give it such strokes as may force it their way. All this may be done without much violence, or any hurt. I have played at this game for half a day together, without giving or receiving the least cause for complaint.

According to the rules of this game, you are never to touch the kockey with your hands, from the time it is tossed up till it is got through one of the goals; and, tho' you are allowed to push either of your antagonists aside, yet it is considered not only as foul play, but as very ungentle also,

also, to strive either to throw another down, or trip up his heels. Such proceedings always produce ill-will, quarrelling, and sometimes fighting: but every young gentleman will wish to make his companion as happy as himself, since, without mutual harmony, the finest sport in the world will be rendered dull, insipid, and disgustful.

C H A P. XII.

A Dissertation on Marbles.

Marbles may be divided into three species or kinds. 1. The marble, commonly so called, and that sort which is most generally used. 2. The alley, which is made of alabaster, and looks exceedingly neat and pretty; the value of which is proportioned to the variety of its colours: however, this is not so much in use as the common marble, it being much dearer, and more liable to break. 3. The
baunce,

baunce, which is distinguished by that name only on account of its size, being a great deal larger than what we call marbles.

It is not here my intent to particularize every game which marbles afford us, as such an attempt would be endless, as well as useless and unnecessary. I shall therefore only mention such as are not generally known, or such as, though commonly played at, are not properly attended to in every point.

The most common of all games at marbles is *nigs*, which some young artists very improperly call *lag-out*; for these are two different games, as I will now make appear, and I hope beyond all possibility of contradiction.

There is nothing more in the game of *nigs*, than gently striking a marble against a wall, or any other solid body, and letting the marble run out, but to no great distance. When one boy has sent out his marble, the other, who is at play with him, does the same, and endeavours to send his marble out in such a direction as may give him hopes of hitting that of his play-
K mate

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mate. In this manner they keep niggling on by turns, till one of them hits a marble, which entitles him to all that are then played out.

I come now to speak of *lag-out*, as a game distinct from that of *nigs*. When you play at nigs, you strike your marble *gently* against the wall; but, at *lag-out*, you hit it with great force, in order to send it to some distance. The boy at play with you then does the same, and endeavours to lay his marble as close to your's as possible, if he cannot hit you. If he happens to miss you, he then takes up his marble, and shoots it at your's; and if he hits your's, he has it; but if he misses, you then take up the farthest marble, lag out as before, and then shoot at him. In this manner the game may be carried on as long as you like, or till one of you is a broken merchant. These little fellows seem so eager for the sport of marbles, that I fear there will soon be some broken merchants among them.

The

AND PASTIMES. 99



The *marble-board* affords tolerable good diversions in the house in wet or damp weather, when we are not permitted to pursue our sports in the open air. The marble-board is very easily made. Get a piece of smooth deal, of what length you like, about two inches high when placed on the ground, and about an inch thick. At the bottom of the board cut a number of little round holes, at the distance of about two inches from each other; but observe that these holes must be cut very little larger than the marble. Though the directions I have now given may be suffi-

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cient for this purpose ; yet I have, in order to remove all obstacles, given you a figure of it.



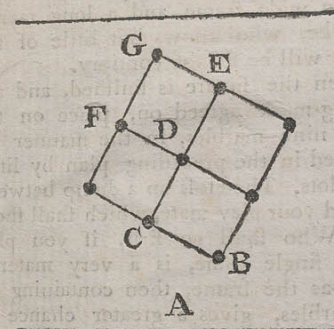
Observe, however, that it will be necessary to tack on to one end a little thin piece of wood the broad way, in order to make it stand the firmer, and that it may not fall by a stroke with the marble.

It is no matter how many play at the board ; the more the merrier. Having placed it at any convenient distance, every one shoots in his turn. If he is fortunate enough to send his marble through any one of the holes in the board, he then takes up his own marble, and receives another from every one that is at play ; but, if he misses, his marble is forfeited to the next artist who shoots through any hole in the board. Hence it may happen, that a good player may not only receive one marble from each of his companions, but may also obtain two or three more,

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more, which bad players had forfeited just before him.

The *nine-square* is one of the prettiest games at marbles, though very little in use, and requires some judgment and nicety to make any figure at it, and two only can play at one time. The first thing to be done is to mark out the frame, in the following manner:



This must be done with great exactness, as every square must be equal, and measured out properly with a bit of stick. Observe

serve likewise to place the frame in such a manner to the place where you stand, that you may not be able to strike off any three of the marbles in a direct line, as you see in the above figure, where the standing-place at A is immediately between the two marbles B and C. The size of the frame, and the distance to stand at from it, much be determined by the abilities of those that are to play. An expert sportsman would choose a wide frame and a long mark; while he, who knows but little of the matter, will be for the contrary.

When the square is finished, and the standing-mark agreed on, place on the square nine marbles, in the manner represented in the preceding plan by little black dots. Then toss up a dump between you and your play-mate, which shall shoot first. Who shall go first, if you play only a single game, is a very material point, as the frame, then containing all the marbles, gives a greater chance to him that shoots; but, if you play the best two in three games, then it is immaterial, as he who had the lead in the first game, must give up that point to his play-mate

mate in the second; and if they win each a game, then a dump must be again tossed up, to settle who shall shoot first on the conquering game. And observe here, that he who shoots out first thirty-one marbles clear of the frame, wins the game.

Do not smile at me, my little pupils, I do not mean that you are to knock out thirty-one marbles from a frame, in which nine only are placed. That I may not leave a possibility of being misunderstood, I will explain myself more minutely. The boy, who is to go first, strikes as many as he can out of the frame; the second-goer tries his best at what he leaves; the first-goer then aims at what escaped the second, and so on till the frame is cleared. They then replace the marbles, and begin again, the first-goer still keeping the lead, till one of them has struck out thirty-one marbles, and then the game is ended.

As this has ever been my most favourite game, whenever I have thought it necessary to fly from abstruse and important studies, for a little relaxation, to marbles;
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and as I look upon it as very difficult, and requiring much attention and judgment, to make a figure at it, I will endeavour to explain, in as few words as possible, by what means I beat almost every boy I play with.

I place my knuckle at A, which I am obliged to do by the laws of the game; and, with a smart shoot, endeavour to strike the marble at C full on that side which faces B: after which my taw comes full upon D in the center, and generally strikes out E before it is spent. The marble at C, from the force of the blow, carries F along with it, as D does G. Thus I generally take out five marbles at one stroke: and I commonly have this advantage given me when I play with inexperienced boys, who begin at B, and thereby seldom strike out more than the marble there placed.—Farewel, a word to the wife is sufficient.

F I N I S.

